

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for controlling a microcontroller in a control unit in a motor vehicle having a processor core containing at least one read-only memory area, and at least one rewritable memory area, at least one control program that is intended to be processed by the processor core being stored in the rewritable memory area, the method comprising:

storing a verification program in a write-once memory area of the rewritable memory area;

storing a service program in the read-only memory area;

calling the service program by the control program at regular intervals;

calling the verification program by the service program;

resetting a counter by the service program when called by the control program;

verifying at least part of the rewritable memory area by the verification program;

triggering a reset one of by the verification program in the event of manipulation of the verified memory area and by the counter in the event of counter overflow.

2-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the triggering the reset includes triggering a reset of the microcontroller.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the triggering the reset includes at least one of shutting down the control unit, and operating the control unit in a limited operation mode.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the triggering the reset includes at least one of sending a signal to other control units, and sending a warning signal which triggers a request for the vehicle to be repaired.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the write-once memory area includes a password-protected memory area of the rewritable memory area.